

Robert Bell appointed special appeals judge

NOV 16 1984

From staff and wire reports

Baltimore Circuit Court Judge Robert M. Bell has been appointed to the Court of Special Appeals by Gov. Harry R. Hughes. **EVENING STAR**

Bell replaces Solomon Liss, who retired from the state's second highest court last month to become chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Commission.

The appointment was announced yesterday by Hughes.

Bell has been a Circuit Court judge since 1980. Before that, he was a District Court judge for five years.

There are two seats on the Court of Special Appeals that are guaranteed for the 6th Appellate Circuit in Baltimore. Chief Judge Robert P. Gilbert occupies the other seat.

Recently, Hughes appointed city Circuit Court Judge Robert L. Karwacki to fill the at-large seat of Judge Thomas Hunter Lowe, who

died suddenly in June.

Currently, Bell presides over the juvenile court where he replaced Circuit Judge Milton B. Allen last September.

While a District Court judge, Bell was the subject of complaints from police officers over his apparent lenient treatment of arrested prostitutes. **NOV 16 1984**

A Harvard Law School graduate, Bell also was the judge who handled the rent strike case brought by public housing tenants against the city and won praise for his handling of that legal dispute.

Bell has a reputation for being a hard-working judge and one of the better legal minds on the city Circuit Court. **EVENING STAR**

His interest in law came as a result of a brush with the law.

As a 16-year-old student at Dunbar High School, Bell was arrested for participating in a civil rights demonstration at a Baltimore restaurant which refused to serve blacks. **NOV 16 1984**

After being found guilty, Bell's attorneys appealed the case and his conviction was overturned.



ROBERT BELL
Replaces Solomon Liss
EVENING STAR